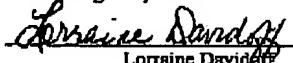


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/656,815
 Applicant : Rodriguez, et al.
 Filed : September 7, 2000
 Art Unit : 3624
 Examiner : Ella Colbert
 Docket No. : 13647.0004
 Customer No. : 33649

Mail Stop Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
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Certificate of Transmission (37 CFR 1.8(a)) I hereby certify that the papers enclosed herein are being transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office, 571-273-8300. Dated: August 5, 2005  Lorraine Davidoff

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 5, 2005 (Paper No. 50205), Applicants respectfully submit the following arguments and amendments in the above-referenced application, and request entry thereof to place the application in condition for Allowability:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 7 of this paper and include both attached replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing changes.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

Conclusion begins on page 21 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures attached following page 21 of this paper.